

February 6, 2003

*Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554*

Re: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Secretary Dortch and Honorable Commissioners:

It is with great pleasure that I write to endorse the long distance application of SBC in Michigan.

The City of Southfield is one of the largest business centers in the State of Michigan. SBC is a valued corporate partner. There are two large SBC call centers located in the City. Consequently, many current and former SBC employees reside in Southfield. Not only has SBC maintained its commitment to being a good corporate citizen, its employees and retirees have provided great leadership in the community. I applaud their efforts.

The City of Southfield, its 78,000 residents, and 250,000 daytime visitors will greatly benefit from additional competition in the long distance market. Improved innovation, competitive pricing and bundled services are all appealing aspects of increased competition in the telecommunications marketplace. Southfield businesses and residents deserve no less.

I urge the Commission to quickly approve SBC's filing.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Lawrence
Mayor